

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 04572 131146Z

51

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 029582

O P 131044Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9746

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

COMUSSAG NKP THAI PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 4572

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR EAID CB VS

SUBJECT: GVN REQUEST FOR BACKHAUL USE OF DC-8 RICE AIRLIFT
FLIGHTS TO TRANSPORT SOUTH VIETNAMESE REFUGEES TO
SAIGON

REF: A. PHNOM PENH 4496

B. SAIGON 2716

C. PHNOM PENH 4439

D. PHNOM PENH 4289

1. AS SUGGESTED IN REFTELS A AND B, THE CALL ON DCM BY SOUTH VIETNAMESE COUNSELOR HUYNH HUU-LUAN ON MARCH 13 CONCERNED THE ABOVE SUBJECT. THE COUNSELOR SAID THERE ARE CURRENTLY SOME 1200 (NOT 600) SOUTH VIETNAMESE REFUGEES LOCATED IN TWO PLACES WITHIN PHNOM PENH CITY: A PAGODA AND THE PRECINCTS OF THE LOCAL CAO DAI TEMPLE. THESE REFUGEES ARE VIETNAMESE WHO WERE BORN IN CAMBODIA AND LIVED HERE ALL THEIR LIVES, BUT WHO IN THE EYES OF THE GVN POSSESS VIETNAMESE NATIONALITY. THEY HAVE BECOME REFUGEES IN RECENT TIMES BY REASON EITHER OF THE ENGULFING OF THEIR NORMAL RESIDENTIAL AREAS BY THE WAR (NEAK LUONG, FOR EXAMPLE, RECENTLY) OF BECAUSE THEY ARE UNABLE TO PROACTICE THEIR SKILLS AND PROFESSIONS BECAUSE OF GKR LAWS OR OTHER REASONS AND THUS CANNOT SUPPORT THEMSELVES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 04572 131146Z

2. IT HAS LONG BEEN UNDERSTOOD, RVN COUNSELOR SAID, BETWEEN THE GKR AND THE GVN THAT THIS CATEGORY OF PEOPLE WOULD BE GRADUALLY REPATRIATED TO VIET-NAM BY WHATEVER MEANS AVAILABLE, THOUGH AT NO EXPENSE TO THE GKR. IN THE PAST, MANY SUCH REFUGEES HAD BEEN REPATRIATED BY THE GVN BY USE OF DOWNRIVER MEKONG CONVOYS, OR OCCASIONAL SPACE AVAILABLE VNAF FLIGHTS BACK TO SAIGON. BUT WITH THE CLOSING OF THE MEKONG, THE FLOW TO VIET-NAM HAD CEASED BY DECEMBER.

3. NOW IT HAD OCCURRED TO THE GVN THAT WITH SPACE AVAILABLE ON THE DC-8 CARGO FLIGHTS WHICH BRING USAID RICE FROM SAIGON TO PHNOM PENH, BUT WHICH RETURN VIRTUALLY EMPTY, THERE MIGHT BE A CHANCE TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE 1200 REFUGEES IN SHORT ORDER. THE MATTER HAD BEEN RAISED BY HIS GOVERNMENT WITH AMEMBASSY SAIGON, THE COUNSELOR SAID, AND HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE THE REQUEST HERE AS WELL.

4. DCM RESPONDED THAT WE HAD ALREADY FILED A REQUEST (REFTEL C) TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES ASKING THEM TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF USE OF THESE DC-8 RETURN FLIGHTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING LIMITED NUMBERS OF OTHER PASSENGERS OF CERTAIN SPECIAL CATEGORIES. WE HAD NOT AS YET RECEIVED A REPLY, WHICH WAS PROBABLY INDICATIVE OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED. THESE MIGHT INCLUDE THE VIEWPOINT OF AID, THE CHARTERER; OF DOD, THE CHARTERING AGENT; OF THE COMMERCIAL CARRIERS, OWNERS OF THE PLANES; PROBLEMS RELATING TO LIABILITY AND INSURANCE; AND PROBLEMS RELATING TO PHYSICAL SUITABILITY OF SUCH AIRCRAFT FOR PASSENGER TRAFFIC, EVEN ON VERY SHORT HAULS AND UNDER EMERGENCY CONDITIONS. DCM SAID THIS EMBASSY WOULD REPORT THE REQUEST OF THE GVN AND ASK THAT IT ALSO BE CONSIDERED BY THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE RVN EMBASSY IN THE MEANTIME, TO DISCUSS THIS POSSIBILITY WITH THE GKR MINISTRIES OF REFUGEES AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHOSE COOPERATION WOULD BE REQUIRED IN SUCH AN AIRLIFT OF REFUGEES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 04572 131146Z

5. THE RVN COUNSELOR, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AN ASSISTANT MILITARY ATTACHE AND A REFUGEES ATTACHE, STATED THAT PRESENT COMBAT CONDITIONS IN VIET-NAM PRECLUDED THE USE BY HIS GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAMESE MILITARY AIRCRAFT FOR THIS PURPOSE; THEY WERE JUST NOT AVAILABLE.

6. HUYNH HUU LUAN THEN BROUGHT UP ANOTHER PROBLEM. HE

ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY HAD NEVER BEEN INCLUDED IN AMERICAN EMBASSY'S E&E PLANS, AS THE GVN HAD ALWAYS FELT ITSELF ABLE IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION TO PROVIDE ITS OWN FIXED OR ROTARY WING ASSETS AS REQUIRED. IN FACT, THE VIETNAMESE HAD FOR SOME TIME PAST HAD AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE ROC AND PHILIPPINE EMBASSIES THAT THE GVN WOULD TAKE CARE OF THEM AS WELL IN AN EVACUATION SITUATION. COUNSELOR SAID YESTERDAY HE HAD BEEN FORCED TO TELL THE CHINESE AND PHILIPPINE AMBASSADORS THAT HE REGRETTED THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY COULD NO LONGER PROVIDE FOR THEM IN AN EVACUATION SITUATION. THIS WOULD, ABOVE ALL, BE TRUE IN THE CASE IN WHICH THE AIRPORT MIGHT BE CLOSED AND ALL EVACUATION WOULD HAVE TO BE BY ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT. WITH THE STATE OF THE WAR IN VIET-NAM, VNAF HELICOPTERS JUST COULD NOT BE SPARED. HE THEREFORE WISHED TO ASK WHETHER THE US COULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOURTEEN VIETNAMESE EMBASSY STAFF, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR PHOUC, IN THE EVENT OF A ROTARY WING EXTRACTION. DCM PROMISED TO SUBMIT THIS QUESTION AS WELL TO DEPT. AND APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. (FYI - DESPITE THE ABOVE, THIS EMBASSY HAS FOR SOME TIME INCLUDED THE CHINESE MISSION PERSONNEL IN OUR EVACUATION PLANS. THE CASE OF THE VERY SMALL PHILIPPINE EMBASSY WILL BE DISCUSSED IN A SEPTTEL.)

7. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT IS ASKED TO FURNISH US AN ANSWER FOR THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY WITH RESPECT: 1) TO THE REQUEST FOR THE TRANSPORT OF THE 1200 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD THE CHARTERED RICE AIRLIFT DC-8'S; AND 2) TO INCLUSION OF NOT TO EXCEED 14 MEMBERS OF THE RVN EMBASSY STAFF IN OUR OWN E&E PLANS. WITH REGARD TO THE LATTER, WOULD RECOMMEND THAT CONCURRENCE BE GIVEN, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT WE WOULD THEN ASK CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 04572 131146Z

THE VIETNAMESE TO REDUCE THEIR NUMBER FROM 14 TO SOME THING MORE REASONABLE (E.G. 5) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ON THE OTHER HAND, SHOULD AN RVN REFUGEE AIRLIFT BE MOUNTED, THEY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY NEED THE SERVICES OF MOST OF THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY STAFF FOR THE ARRANGEMENTS, WHICH WOULD BE BEYOND OUR OWN CAPABILITIES IN VIEW OF OUR OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES.
DEAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RICE, EMERGENCY EVACUATION, MILITARY AIRLIFTS, FOREIGN SERVICE LOCAL EMPLOYEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PHNOM04572
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750087-1166
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750354/aaaabwkv.tel
Line Count: 162
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 PHNOM PENH 4496
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GVN REQUEST FOR BACKHAUL USE OF DC-8 RICE AIRLIFT FLIGHTS TO TRANSPORT SOUTH VIETNAMESE REFUGEES TO
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, CB, VS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006